

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action of May 23, 2007.
Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The Office Action

Claims 3–20 and 25–27 were noted as containing allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 2, and 21–24 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nostrand (US Patent No. 6,714,393) in view of Foley (US Patent No. 4,167,002).

Rejoinder of Claims

Per a June 8, 2007 telephone conference between the Examiner and the attorney of record, Brian Kondas, **claims 23–27** have been rejoined and examined.

The Claims of the Present Application Distinguish Over the Cited References

Claim 1 recites a control circuit that simulates status of a float switch to energize an interface circuit based on the switch status.

Nostrand discloses a transient suppression apparatus including sensors **S1–Sn** in fuel **14**, transient suppression devices **TSD1–TSDn**, and a sensor excitation system **16**. The sensor excitation system **16** generates excitation signals which are conducted to each of the sensors **S1–Sn** via the respective transient suppression devices **TSD1–TSDn** and electrical pathways **P1–Pn** (see col. 2, line 65 to col. 3, line 3 of Nostrand) to, for

example, measure the quantity of the fuel **14** in a tank **12** (see col. 1, lines 16–20 of Nostrand). The actual signal from the sensor excitation system **16** is transmitted to the sensors **S1–Sn** via the respective transient suppression devices **TSD1–TSDn** and electrical pathways **P1–Pn**. In addition, actual signals from the sensors **S1–Sn** are transmitted to the sensor excitation system **16** via the electrical pathways **P1–Pn** and the respective transient suppression devices **TSD1–TSDn**. Therefore, the actual status of the sensors **S1–Sn** is measured. Nostrand fails to disclose or suggest a control circuit that simulates status of a switch (e.g., a float switch), as recited in **claim 1**.

Foley similarly fails to disclose or suggest a control circuit that simulates status of a switch (e.g., a float switch), as recited in **claim 1**.

For the reasons discussed above, **claim 1** and **claims 2–27**, which depend therefrom, are patentable over the combination of Nostrand and Foley.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. Early notice thereof is respectfully requested.

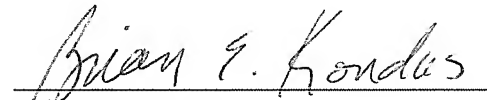
Amendment Dated August 23, 2007
Reply to Office Action of May 23, 2007

US Application No. 10/695,040

It is believed that there is no fee associated with the filing and consideration of this amendment. Should the Commissioner decide that any fee or fee deficiency is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any and all such fees, and/or credit any overpayments, incurred as a result of entering this amendment to Deposit Account No. 03-0172.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Brian E. Kondas", is written over a horizontal line.

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